

CLAIMS:

1. An air-deflection attachment for an item of protective sports gear worn on the head of a wearer, the attachment including:

5 a deflector portion of unitary substantially air-impermeable flexible construction for location alongside the face and forwardly from an ear of a wearer of the item of protective gear, the deflector portion being generally in the form of a vertically elongated aerofoil, having an operatively inner face and an operatively outer face, the inner face and the outer face meeting along an operatively leading edge of the deflector portion
10 and respectively extending between said leading edge and an operatively trailing edge of the deflector portion, the inner face providing an inner edge spaced laterally inwardly from the trailing edge for substantially sealingly abutting a side of the face of the wearer, and the outer face being for deflecting flow of air past the head of a wearer arising from movement of the wearer in a direction in which the wearer is facing, the deflection being
15 away from the wearer's outer ear canal opening, and acting to reduce wind noise levels experienced by the wearer when moving; and

an attachment portion attached to the deflector portion for releasably attaching the attachment to the item of protective gear.

20 2. An attachment as claimed in Claim 1, in which the deflector portion is in the form of a moulding of resiliently flexible plastics foam construction, the flexible construction of the deflector portion permitting conformation of the inner edge thereof to the shape of the side of the face of a wearer of the item of protective gear.

3. An attachment as claimed in Claim 2, in which the inner edge of the deflector portion is provided by a ridge extending longitudinally along at least part of the inner face of the deflector portion, the ridge being spaced from the leading edge of the deflector portion and spaced from the trailing edge of the deflector portion, part of the deflector portion forming a forward extension of the deflector portion from the ridge, and the attachment portion being attached to said extension.

4. An attachment as claimed in Claim 3, in which the attachment portion is of unitary construction, being releasably attached to the forward extension of the deflector portion.

5. An attachment as claimed in Claim 4, which is for attachment to a protective sports helmet, the attachment portion including at least one clip for attaching the attachment to a strap of the sports helmet, each clip including a pair of limbs fast with each other at the leading edge of the deflector portion and projecting rearwardly from the leading edge, one limb being located on the operatively inner face of the forward extension of the deflector portion and the other limb being located on the operatively outer face of the extension, with the extension being sandwiched between the limbs of each clip, the extension being provided with at least one opening spaced from the leading edge of the deflector portion and spaced from said ridge, through which aperture at least one of the limbs of each clip extends, the free ends of the limbs

of each clip being releasably securable together, to permit the strap of the helmet to be received between the extension and one of the limbs of each clip.

6. An attachment as claimed in Claim 5, in which each attachment portion includes a plurality of said clips longitudinally spaced in series along the length of the extension, the attachment portion also including a spine formation connecting the plurality of clips together, the extension being provided with a corresponding plurality of longitudinally spaced openings through which one limb of each clip extends.

7. An attachment as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the attachment portion is in the form of a moulding of flexible synthetic plastics material.

8. An attachment as claimed in Claim 3, which is for attachment to a pair of glasses, the attachment portion including a clip for attaching the attachment to an ear shaft assembly of the pair of glasses.

9. An attachment as claimed in Claim 8, in which the attachment portion includes an elongated spine formation fast with and extending longitudinally along at least part of the vertical length of the extension, the clip comprising two limbs fast with the spine formation for receiving therebetween part of a said ear shaft assembly.

10. An attachment as claimed in Claim 9, in which the spine formation is of composite construction, having an inner component located on the inner face of the

extension and from which inner component the clip projects, and an outer component located on the outer face of the extension, one said component being provided with a prong projecting laterally therefrom through an opening in the extension spaced from the leading edge of the deflector portion and spaced from said ridge, the other said
5 component being provided with an aperture for securingly receiving the prong.

11. An attachment as claimed in Claim 10, in which said one component includes a plurality of said prongs longitudinally spaced in series, the extension being provided with a corresponding plurality of said openings for respectively receiving the
10 respective prongs, the other component being provided with a corresponding plurality of apertures for respectively securingly receiving the respective prongs, one of the components being provided with an operatively upwardly projecting restriction or stop formation for abutting the ear shaft assembly of the pair of glasses, to restrict pivoting of
15 the lower end of the attachment away from the side of the face of a wearer of the pair of glasses about an axis extending in the fore and aft direction, parallel to the ear shaft of the glasses.

12. An attachment as claimed in Claim 10 or Claim 11, in which the attachment formation is of resiliently flexible construction, the flexibility of the spine
20 formation increasing towards the operatively lower end thereof, to promote conformation of the inner edge of the deflector portion with a side of the face of the wearer of a pair of glasses to which the attachment is attached.

13. An attachment as claimed in any one of Claims 10 – 12 inclusive, in which the inner component and the outer component are in the form of mouldings of flexible synthetic plastics material.

5 14. A set of attachments for an item of protective gear, the set including two attachments as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, one of the attachments being shaped for association with the left ear of a wearer of the item of protective gear, the other attachment being shaped for association with the right ear of the wearer.

10 15. A protective sports gear assembly which comprises:
an item of protective sports gear worn on the head of a wearer; and
a pair of air-deflection attachments attached to opposites sides of the item of protective sports gear, each air-deflection attachment being an attachment as claimed in any one of Claims 1 – 4 inclusive, one attachment being shaped for association with
15 left ear of a wearer of the item of protective sports gear, and the other attachment being shaped for association with the right ear of the wearer.

16. A protective sports gear assembly as claimed in Claim 15, in which the item of protective sports gear is a protective sports helmet having chin straps, each air-deflection attachment being an attachment as claimed in any one of Claims 5 – 7
20 inclusive, each attachment being attached to a chin strap of the helmet.

17. A protective sports gear assembly as claimed in Claim 15, in which the item of sports gear is a pair of glasses, each air-deflection attachment being an attachment as claimed in any one of Claims 8 – 13 inclusive, each attachment being attached to an ear shaft assembly of the pair of glasses.